

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A polyphenylene ether based resin composition comprising (a) from 10 to 93% by weight of a polyphenylene ether based resin and optionally a styrene based resin, (b) from 2 to 20% by weight of a styrene based thermoplastic elastomer modified with an imidazolidinone compound, and (c) from 5 to 60% by weight of ~~an inorganic filler~~ a clay that has been surface treated with a silane compound.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) The polyphenylene ether based resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the ~~inorganic filler as the component (c) is a clay~~ is a clay ~~[[that]]~~ has been surface treated with a mercaptosilane compound.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Currently Amended) A polyphenylene ether based resin composition comprising 100 parts by weight of the resin composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 or 3 and (d) from 5 to 30 parts by weight of an aromatic phosphoric ester based flame retarder.
6. (New) The polyphenylene ether based resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the mean primary particle size of the clay is not more than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .